

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 14-17, 33 and 34 as follows:

- D3
14. (Amended) A polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a plurality of cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) epitopes wherein each CTL epitope is substantially free of peptide sequences naturally found to flank that CTL epitope and wherein at least two of the plurality of CTL epitopes are contiguous or spaced apart by an intervening sequence that does not comprise a methionine.
 15. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 14, wherein the CTL epitopes are contiguous.
 16. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 14, wherein said polynucleotide encodes at least three CTL epitopes.
 17. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 14, wherein said polynucleotide encodes four CTL epitopes.

- D4
33. (Amended) A nucleic acid vaccine comprising a polynucleotide comprising:
 - (i) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a plurality of cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) epitopes wherein each CTL epitope is substantially free of peptide sequences naturally found to flank that CTL epitope and wherein at least two of the plurality of CTL epitopes are contiguous or spaced apart by an intervening sequence that does not comprise a methionine; and
 - (ii) an acceptable carrier.

34. (Amended) The nucleic acid vaccine of claim 33 wherein the CTL epitopes are contiguous.

A copy of the amended claims with editing indicia is Attached as Appendix B. A clean copy of the pending claims as amended is provided for the convenience of the Examiner in Appendix C.